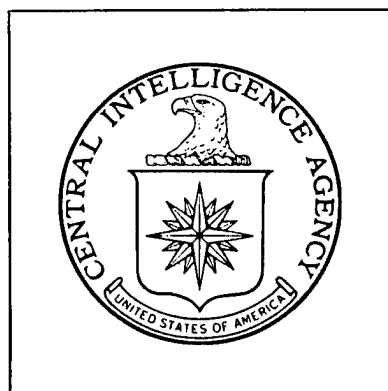


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**DIRECTORATE OF
INTELLIGENCE**

**Industrial Facilities
(Non-Military)**

Basic Imagery Interpretation Report

Lan-chou Chemical Fertilizer Plant

Lan-chou, China



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INSTALLATION OR ACTIVITY NAME		COUNTRY	
Lan-chou Chemical Fertilizer Plant		CH	
UTM COORDINATES	GEOGRAPHIC COORDINATES	COMIREX NO.	WAC-PIC NO.
48SUQ740980	36-07-21N 103-35-52E	None	0383-3H
MAP REFERENCE			
15 RTS. USATC 200, Sheet 0383-22HL, 2nd edition, May 64, Scale 1:200,000 (SECRET/CONTROLLED DISSEM)			
LATEST IMAGERY USED		NEGATION DATE (If required)	
		Not Required	

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ABSTRACT

The Lan-chou Chemical Fertilizer Plant was in operation when first studied on overflight photography of September 1959. By March 1965, the capacity of the plant had been increased by approximately 50 percent. Although construction has continued since 1965, there have been no significant additions. The primary product of the plant is ammonium nitrate, but other ammonia-based compounds are also produced.

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INTRODUCTION

The Lan-chou Chemical Fertilizer Plant is one of China's major producers of nitrogenous fertilizers. The plant is located 9 nautical miles (nm) west-northwest of the center of Lan-chou (Figure 1) and is part of a large industrial complex which also contains the Lan-chou Petroleum Refinery [REDACTED], Lan-chou Petrochemical Plant (BE - None), and the Lan-chou Aluminum Plant, Hsi-ku [REDACTED]. Electric power and steam are supplied by the Lan-chou Thermal Power Plant, Hsi-ku [REDACTED] which is located approximately 0.5 nm to the northwest.

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BASIC DESCRIPTION

Physical Features

The plant, which is basically rectangular in shape, measures approximately 5,100 by 2,900 feet and occupies 340 acres (Figure 2). It is secured by a wall and is served by a spur from the Lan-chou to Hsiang-tang-chou rail line. This is one of three plants which is characteristic of the earlier Soviet-designed fertilizer plants in China.

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Operational Functions

The primary function of the plant is the manufacture of ammonium nitrate. Methanol and possibly nitrophosphate are by-products of the fertilizer production.

The major production facilities for nitrogenous fertilizer have been identified and illustrated on Figure 3. Several production-type buildings located near the ammonia production area could not be identified at this time. However, their location and access to ammonia would indicate that their function is the production of ammonia-based compounds.

Status and Activity

Ground photography of March 1958 showed the plant to be under construction. When observed for the first time on overflight coverage of September 1959 the production components were complete and the plant was in operation. Analysis of photography of March 1965 revealed that the production capacity of the plant had been increased by approximately 50 percent. This estimated increase in capacity is based on the expansion of the sulfur removal and gas purification units, the compressor/separator building, and the nitric acid unit. Facilities in the possible nitrophosphate area and in the shipping and storage areas were also increased. Since 1965 construction has continued at a slow rate, but no significant changes have been observed.

The plant appeared to be in operation on all photographic missions between September 1959 and June 1968 as evidenced by atmospheric emissions and fluctuations in the number of rail cars in the plant.

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FIGURE 2. CHEMICAL FERTILIZER PLANT, LAN-CHOU, CHINA,

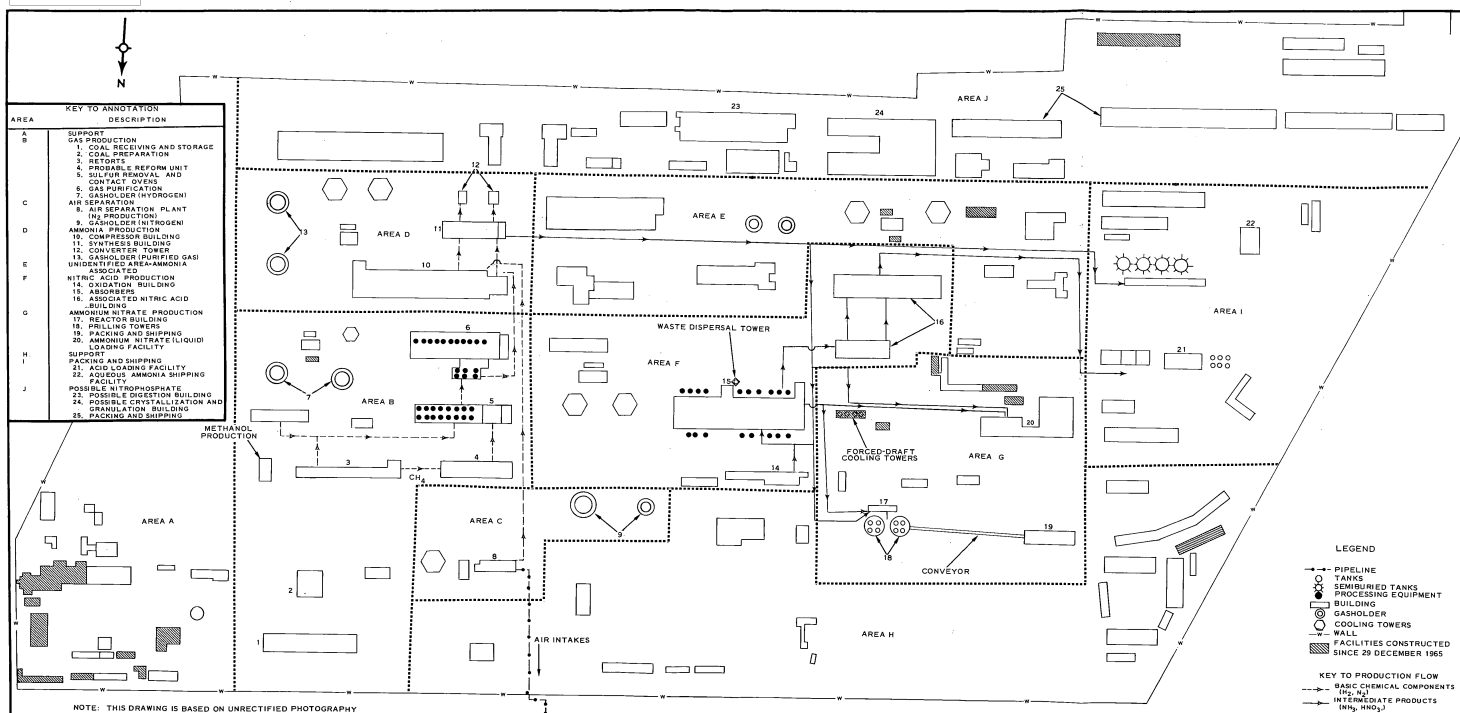
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REFERENCES

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Maps and Charts

15th RTS. U.S. Air Target Chart, Series 200, Sheet 0383-22HL, 2nd edition, May 64, Scale 1:200,000 (SECRET-CONTROLLED DISSEM)

Documents

1. CIA. PIR 65097, Lan-chou Nitrogen Fertilizer Plant, Lan-chou, China, March 1966, [REDACTED] (TOP SECRET CHESS RUFF)
2. CIA. PIR 85015, Lan-chou Chemical Industries, China, August 1967, [REDACTED] (TOP SECRET CHESS RUFF)

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Requirement

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